

The District 3 Slate

February 2002

County Supervisor Pam Slater

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-- Supervisor Pam Slater



County Supervisor
Pam Slater

Dear friends:

Parents understand the pride they feel when their children bring home good report cards.

Likewise, the residents of San Diego County should feel proud about the recent report card the County received.

The main story in this edition of *The District 3 Slate* reports on how the County stacked up nationwide versus 40 other counties in government performance. I'm very pleased to say that we ranked among the top four.

The County's performance reflects the direction and hard work on the part of the Board of Supervisors, our Chief Administrative Officer Walt Ekard, management and our employees. It's truly a team effort.

Yet it also reflects the will of voters across the County, because it is voters like you who chose to elect county representatives who make job performance a priority. It will remain a priority with me.

Pam Slater

San Diego County among the best in class

San Diego County has been ranked among the top four counties across the nation in government performance and fiscal stability, according to a national study.

Syracuse University, in conjunction with *Governing Magazine*, conducted the study.

"At the County, this Board of Supervisors, from day one on, has emphasized performance and results, from top management on down," said County Supervisor Pam Slater.

"The study's rankings affirm that our priorities are in the right place," she added.

The university's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs examined 40 counties across the United States. It reviewed them on financial management, capital management, human resources, managing for results, and information technology.

San Diego County's combined B+ in those five categories put it among the top four counties in the nation, with the highest score among participating California counties.

The county's scores included A- grades in financial management, capital management and managing for results. It received a B- for human resources, and a B+ for information technology.

The study will be published in the February edition of *Governing Magazine*, and will be available on the project's Web site, www.maxwell.syr.edu/gpp.

The study's authors note that -- like the rest of the state -- San Diego County was hit hard by the revenue cuts of Prop. 13, and the recession of the early 1990s.

"But (San Diego County) has used those problems as a spur to managerial creativity that has

had a profound effect on its 17,000 employees and its \$3.7 billion budget," the authors said.

The study noted that the County is a national leader in the use of cost-accounting, and that its Geographic Information System is among the best anywhere.

"We still want to improve," Slater added. "But we're not interested in hearing 'this is how it's always been done.' We're interested in what works."

Slater named to state panel

Mary Nichols, Secretary of the California Resources Agency, has appointed Supervisor Pam Slater to the "Legacy Project," a statewide effort to help government agencies and private conservation groups make better decisions about how to conserve the state's precious natural resources.

Slater was appointed to the project's Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Slater is the only elected official from San Diego County and one of only two elected officials in the state on the 61-member committee.

"Californians recognized the majesty and vastness of our state's natural beauty and resources," Slater said. "But we also know that these resources can be lost or trampled unless



Sunset: The state's magnificent beauty is on display in District Three.

we manage them for the public in the best possible way. The Legacy Project will help us do exactly that."

Slater's committee will hold seven workshops across the

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Promoting 101 business

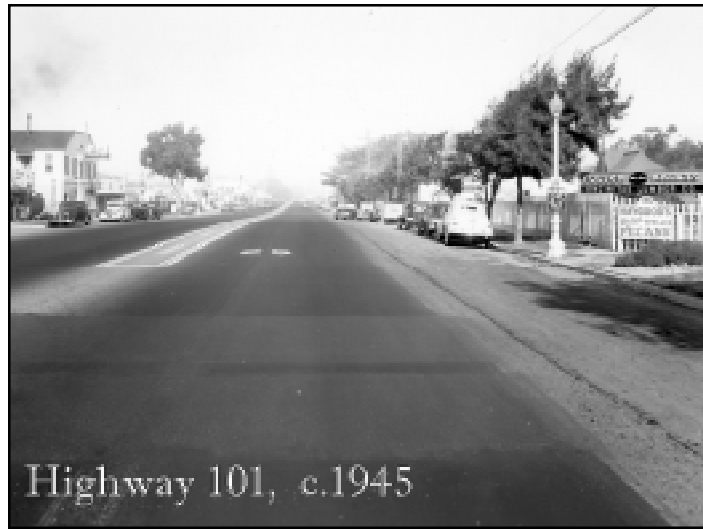
The State of California recently announced a travel and tourism promotion highlighting the beauty and diversity of Highway 101.

"Since September 11th, more people are taking shorter trips and rediscovering the heritage and history of their local areas," said Supervisor Pam Slater. "There is no better time to promote the wonders of our local Highway 101."

Slater set up a meeting between local leaders from Encinitas, Cardiff, Solana Beach and Del Mar to form a regional Highway 101 committee.

Peder Norby of the Downtown Encinitas Merchants' Association was named chairman.

The committee will be work



On the Road: Highway 101, Encinitas, 1945. The sign at right advertises Fuller Paints, the Encinitas Lumber Co., and Haygood's Shelled Pecans.

with state Senator Bill Morrow's office on submitting a proposal to the state requesting funding for various projects to improve and enhance the vitality of our coastal communities.

Suggestions that have come

out of the committee include a system of clean air busses, allowing visitors to easily commute between the business areas of the three cities, creating promotional materials; and improving coastal access.

Use of Ecstasy skyrocketing

The use of the drug Ecstasy is skyrocketing among teens, according to a national study done by the Partnership for a Drug Free America.

The study's results, which were announced during a news conference this month, showed that Ecstasy use among teens doubled between 1995 and 2000.

"For too many parents and teenagers, the use of Ecstasy leads to agony, and we need to

get that word out," said Supervisor Pam Slater, who spoke at the news conference.

Ecstasy, a so-called "club drug" with stimulant and hallucinogenic effects, is a form of methamphetamine. It has no recognized medical use in the U.S..

According to the study, more teens have now tried Ecstasy than have experimented with cocaine, crack or heroin.

"Many items linked with this



News conference: Supervisor Slater warns about the dangers of Ecstasy. drug, such as pacifiers and glow sticks, are associated with childish innocence," Slater added. "But in reality, the results of using Ecstasy can be a nightmare."

Remember to vote March 5!

County officials this month are encouraging residents to take part in an vital civic duty: The Vote.

California's primary election will be held March 5. Voters will choose among candidates for statewide and local offices, as well as vote on many important statewide propositions.

"Since the September 11th attacks, many of us in our nation have remembered the privileges of being an American citizen," Supervisor Pam Slater said. "One privilege is voting - our ability to directly choose who governs us. It is not a privilege to take lightly, and I encourage everyone to vote on March 5."

Legacy:

state this year and report its recommendations in Sacramento this summer.

The Legacy Project will help create tools to analyze and assess large natural resource areas and rank them in importance under each of the state's conservation goals.

California has more plant and animal species than any other state. It also has more species listed as threatened or endangered than any other state, except Hawaii.

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